

ETHNOBOTANICAL UNDERSTANDING OF MANGROVES: AN INVESTIGATION FROM CENTRAL PART OF INDIAN SUNDARBANS

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ABSTRACT

Mangroves are one of the most unique ecosystems existing in the estuarine regions of the tropical and subtropical zone. Sundarbans is the largest, yet heavily populated, contiguous mangrove forest of the world which is shared by two nations, namely Bangladesh and India. Local inhabitants face tremendous austerity from environmental problems, but are dependent on forest plants for their medical requirements along with other day-to-day uses, in scarcity of modern medical facility coupled with transportation difficulties. This paper highlights the medicinal usage of few key mangrove species as indicated by local healers and medicine man. A total of 31 species of mangrove flora is found to have different medicinal properties, and other usage which is put forward in this paper.

KEYWORDS: Medicinal Plants, Ethnobotany, Mangroves, Indian Sundarbans